CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

recording a quantity of focus applied to a focus item;

deriving a focus decay value from said quantity;

decaying a focus measurement of said focus item and a focus measurements of at least one other item by said focus decay value; and

adding amounts decayed from said focus measurement of said focus item and from said focus measurement of said at least one other item to said focus measurement of said focus item.

2. A method as in claim 1, further comprising displaying said focus item in a graphical format that visually reflects said focus measurement of said focus item.

3. A method as in claim 1, further comprising diffusing said focus measurement of said focus item among at least one related item.

4. A method as in claim 3, wherein said diffusing comprises calculating a context measurement for said at least one related item.

5. A method as in claim 4, wherein said calculating includes at least:

reducing said context measurement of said at least one related item by a context decay value;

deriving a related item contribution amount for said at least one related item; and

adding the product of said context decay value times said related item contribution amount to said reduced context measurement for said at least one related item.

6. A method as in claim 5, wherein said deriving a related item contribution amount for said at least one related item comprises adding, for all other related items that are related to said at least one related item, the dividend of the context measurement of said other related items divided by the number of said other related items that are related to said at least one related item.

7. A method as in claim 4, further comprising filtering out items whose context measurement is below a threshold context value.

8. A method as in claim 4, further comprising displaying said at least one related item in a graphical format that visually reflects context measurements of said at least one related item relative to the display of other items.

9. A method as in claim 8, wherein said displaying said at least one related item relative to the display of other items comprises displaying said related item and said other items such that indications of context are expressed using one or more of size, color, boldness brightness, hue, detail and organic value.

10. A method as in claim 1, wherein said recording comprises recording a quantity of time during which focus is applied to said focus item.

11. A method as in claim 1, wherein said recording comprises recording a quantity of time during which a pointing symbol indicated focus on said focus item.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said pointing symbol is controlled by a device that is operably connected to a computer.

13. A method as in claim 1 wherein said recording comprises recording a discreet number of focus units.

14. A method comprising:

reducing a focus measurement of at least one item related to a focus item by a context decay value;

calculating a related item contribution amount for said at least one related item; and

adding the product of said context decay value times said related item contribution amount to said reduced focus measurement for said at least one related item.

15. A method as in claim 14, wherein said calculating a related item contribution amount for said at least one related item includes at least adding, for all other related items that are related to said at least one related item, the dividend of the context measurement of said other related items divided by the number of said other related items.

16. A method as in claim 14, further comprising filtering out items whose context measurement is below a threshold context value.

17. A method as in claim 14, further comprising displaying said at least one related item in a format that reflects the context measurements of said at least one related item.

18. A method as in claim 17, comprising adjusting a size of a display of said at least one related item to reflect the context measurement of said at least one related item relative to the context measurements of other items.

19. A computing system comprising:

a data storage unit to store at least focus measurements; and

a processor:

to record a quantity of focus applied to a focus item,

to calculate a focus decay value from said quantity of focus,

to reduce said focus measurements of said focus item and focus measurements of other items by said decay value, and

to add the amounts reduced from said focus measurements to said focus measure of said focus item.

20. A computing system as in claim 19, wherein said processor is to diffuse said focus measurement of said focus item among at least one related item.

21. A computing system as in claim 20, wherein said processor is to calculate a context measurement of said at least one related item.

22. A computing system as in claim 21, comprising a display to display said at least one related item in a manner that visually reflects said context measurement of said at least one related item relative to other items.

23. A computing system as in claim 22, wherein displaying in a manner that visually reflects said context measurements includes at least displaying using one or more of size, color, boldness brightness, hue, detail and organic value.

24. A computing system as in claim 21, wherein said processor is to filter out related items whose context measurements is below a threshold context value.

25. A computing system as in claim 19, comprising a display to display said focus item in a manner that visually reflects said focus measurement of said focus items relative to other items.

26. A computing system as in claim 19, wherein said processor is to record a quantity of time during which focus is applied to said focus item.

27. A computing system as in claim 19, comprising a pointing device to apply said quantity of focus.

28. A computing system comprising:

a data storage means for storing at least focus measurements; and

a processor means for:

recording a quantity of focus applied to a focus item,

calculating a focus decay value from said quantity of focus,

reducing said focus measurements of said focus item and focus measurements of other items by said decay value, and

adding the amounts reduced from said focus measurements to said focus measure of said focus item.